



Safety Note – “Safety – Who Owns It?”

Safety is paramount at the Kennedy Space Center and I'm glad to have the opportunity to share my thoughts with you in this inaugural issue of *Lookout*. From the very start of my tenure as Center Director, I wanted to make sure everyone understood how important safety is to me and how committed I am to ensuring a safe work environment for all our employees here at KSC.

In our core values of Safety, Integrity, Teamwork and Excellence, safety ranks first. Nothing we do is so important that we can't do it safely. But do you really believe that, have you accepted it? As a contractor - civil service team, are we really working together to make our work environment at KSC safer for everyone? We will never have a truly effective safety program until all of us realize that safety is our responsibility, not management's or S&MA's, but ours, individually. We have to own it and take responsibility for it. It has to be at our very core and part of everything we do.

I'd like for you to also consider, that safety doesn't begin or end as we pass through the gates at KSC. If we're truly committed to doing things safely, we're going to take it home with us also. As the summer months progress, there are plenty of opportunities for an incident at home. We need everyone healthy, if we're going to succeed, and more importantly, your families need you healthy to provide and care for them. Don't be that bad example at the safety briefs around Center that show and describe how not to do a job. So take some time and step back and ask yourself if you're really committed to safety as a core value. Have you taken ownership of it, or do you feel safety is someone else's responsibility?

Over the next few years, we have a tremendous challenge in front of us and we can't afford to fail. We will not be successful if safety is not at our core. Think about it, take ownership of it, be safe at home and on the job and we will get through the challenges that are before us.

Be safe,

Bob

Why A New Newsletter???

Lookout is designed to be more than your standard safety newsletter. If you research the word '*lookout*' you will find several definitions:

- An act of watching carefully;
- A person watching for danger;
- A place or position that affords a good view for observation; or
- Identifying a problem or concern.

Lookout will afford all KSC employees the opportunity to voice safety concerns as well as provide relevant and current safety information that will keep employees safe.

Lookout will include topics from Occupational Health, Construction Safety, Institutional Safety, and much more. It will also feature fun facts, myth busters, and urban legends. In planning to use *Lookout* as a medium to address KSC workforce questions and concerns, readers should initially send questions or comments to the editor. In the future, we will be developing a safety weblog where comments and concerns will be featured and addressed. So, please pass the word that *Lookout* is finally here to spread safety knowledge and to give the KSC workforce a safety megaphone!



SAFETY FIRST
SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S JOB



Did You Know

Recently, an employee was disassembling and disposing of two multiple gas analyzer chassis when two rare-earth magnets collided trapping and severing part of the employee's thumb. One would usually not expect magnets to cause such an injury.

As KSC goes through a significant transition over the next few years, there will be more equipment and material dispositions.

Proper care should be given in identifying, packaging, shipping, and disposal of potentially hazardous materials.

This incident demonstrates the importance of not taking for granted even the most common objects. When in doubt, stop work and seek expertise. Don't let something as basic as a magnet cause another significant injury.

Fun Facts

Neodymium Iron Boron (NIB) and Samarium Cobalt (SmCo) are the strongest types of permanent magnets and are very difficult to demagnetize. They are also known as rare-earth magnets since their compounds come from the rare earth or Lanthanoid series of elements in the periodic table. These magnets can be used in satellite systems, traveling wave tubes, microphones, computer printers, computer hard drives, speakers, and magnetic levitation (mag-lev) trains.